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Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Ligue internationale de femmes pour la paix et la liberté
Internationale Frauenliga für Frieden und Freiheit
Liga Internacional de Mujeres pro Paz y Libertad

Consultative Status with United Nations ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO; Special Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO, and UNICEF
International Secretariat: 1, rue de Varembé, C.P. 28, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Telephone: (022) 733 61 75 - Telefax: (022) 740 10 63 Cables: WILLIF, Geneva - Telex: 427 993 TXC-CH for WILPF - Postal Account 12-1869-9

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Item 6:Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories

Mr. Chairperson,

In the wake of the Gulf crisis and war, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom urgently appeals to the United Nations to cease applying double standards in regard to violations of the United Nations Charter and in the implementation of Security Council resolutions. In this regard we wish to draw again attention to Security Council resolution 384 of 22 December 1975 which called for the withdrawal of Indonesian forces from East Timor and re-affirmed the right of the East Timorese people to self-determination.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in December 1975. It is estimated that some 60,000 Timorese were killed in resisting the invasion, and that 100,000 to 200,000 died in the ensuing conflict between 1974-1980. In spite of the draconian controls imposed by Indonesia, the Timorese people continue to resist the occupation. Reliable sources, such as Amnesty International, testify to the fact that gross human rights violations continue to occur in East Timor. Unless a different approcah is taken, the conflict between the Indonesian military and Timorese people will not cease. There can be no doubt that the people of East Timor wish to determine their own destiny. This is their right which is recognized by the international community.

In this vein, we deplore the Timor Gap Treaty signed between Australia and Indonesia in 1989 for the development of the Timor Sea oil

resources, which has ignored the fact that the UN still regards the East Timor question as unresolved. Its challenge by Portugal at the International Court of Justice has drawn new attention to the illegality of the Indonesian annexation of East Timor.

We support the call proposed by the Timorese side for a dialogue between the concerned parties under the auspices of the United Nations . This could be a staged process beginning with a cease-fire, monitored by a UN Observer team, followed by talks on some formula of self-determination for the people of East Timor. In these Talks would take part the United Nations Secretary General or his personal representative, representatives of the governments of Indonesia and Portugal and a delegation of the Timorese people which could include representatives of political parties, the church and the resistance forces.

Whatever political arrangements agreed to, they could be formalized through a process carried out by the United Nations as was the case of Namibia and is in the case of the Western Sahara.

The process of dialogue and negotiation is the most effective and just means of resolving political conflicts, as has also been demonstrated in the above cases where the UN has played a primal role. We are confident that such an approach would also bring to an end the 16 year-old conflict in East Timor.

HANNAH WU